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NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

First record of *Rhinella ocellata* (Günther, 1858) (Bufonidae) for the state of Maranhão, northeastern Brazil

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ABSTRACT: In this study, we present the first record of *Rhinella ocellata* (Günther, 1858) for the state of Maranhão and for coastal ecosystems "restinga environments" in Brazil. This note also expands the known geographic distribution of this species by approximately 895 km to the north from the closest record located in the Parque Estadual do Jalapão (10°32′59″ S, 46°45′38″ W), state of Tocantins, contributing to the knowledge of the anurofauna in the state of Maranhão.

The family Bufonidae Gray, 1825 has a naturally wide distribution, with the exception of Australia, Madagascar and the oceanic regions, although species of this family have also been introduced into various regions of the world. Currently the family Bufonidae is made up of 48 genera. The genus *Rhinella* Fitzinger, 1826 consists of 77 species widely distributed in the Neotropics, of which approximately 40 species are known and distributed among seven groups of species in Brazil (Silva *et al*. 2011; Frost 2014).

Bufo ocellatus was originally described by Gunther (1858) for the type locality "Brasilien" and redescribed by Cochran (1954) as *Rhinella ocellata* (Caldwell and Shepard 2007; Frost 2014). It is a small bufonid of terrestrial habit that occurs near water bodies where it reproduces, being found between 200 and 1500 m of elevation (IUCN 2013; Frost 2014). *Rhinella ocellata* is relatively poorly known for habitats of the Cerrado biome in the states of Minas Gerais, Mato Grosso, Goiás, Pará and Tocantins (Caldwell and Shepard 2007; IUCN 2013; Frost 2014). We observed in this study individuals of *R. ocellata* in both preserved and anthropic environments, contradicting the results of IUCN (2013) that suggested that *R. ocellata* does not adapt well to disturbed/anthropic environments.

In this study individuals of *Rhinella ocellata* were captured in four municipalities in the northeastern region of the state of Maranhão from January to July 2010 (Figure 1): 1) Urbano Santos (3°10′31″ S, 43°21′28″ W; 65 m a.s.l): on January 28, 2010 between 17:30h and 18:00h, several juveniles were observed near a disturbed slow lotic anthropic environment called "buritizal" because of the palm trees [*Mauritia flexuosa L.* (Arecaceae)], located in the Cerrado biome "Cerradão", but only three juveniles (9.6 mm, 10.5 mm and 11.4 mm SVL) were captured, 2) Barreirinhas (3°02′29″ S, 43°07′52″ W; 39 m a.s.l): on March 29, 2010 an adult male (44.5 mm SVL) was captured between 22:30h and 23:00h on the banks of a temporary pond in the Cerrado biome "Cerradão", 3) Primeira Cruz (2°43′06″ S, 43°23′56″ W; 39 m a.s.l): on March 30, 2010 an adult male (43.1 mm SVL, Figure 2) was

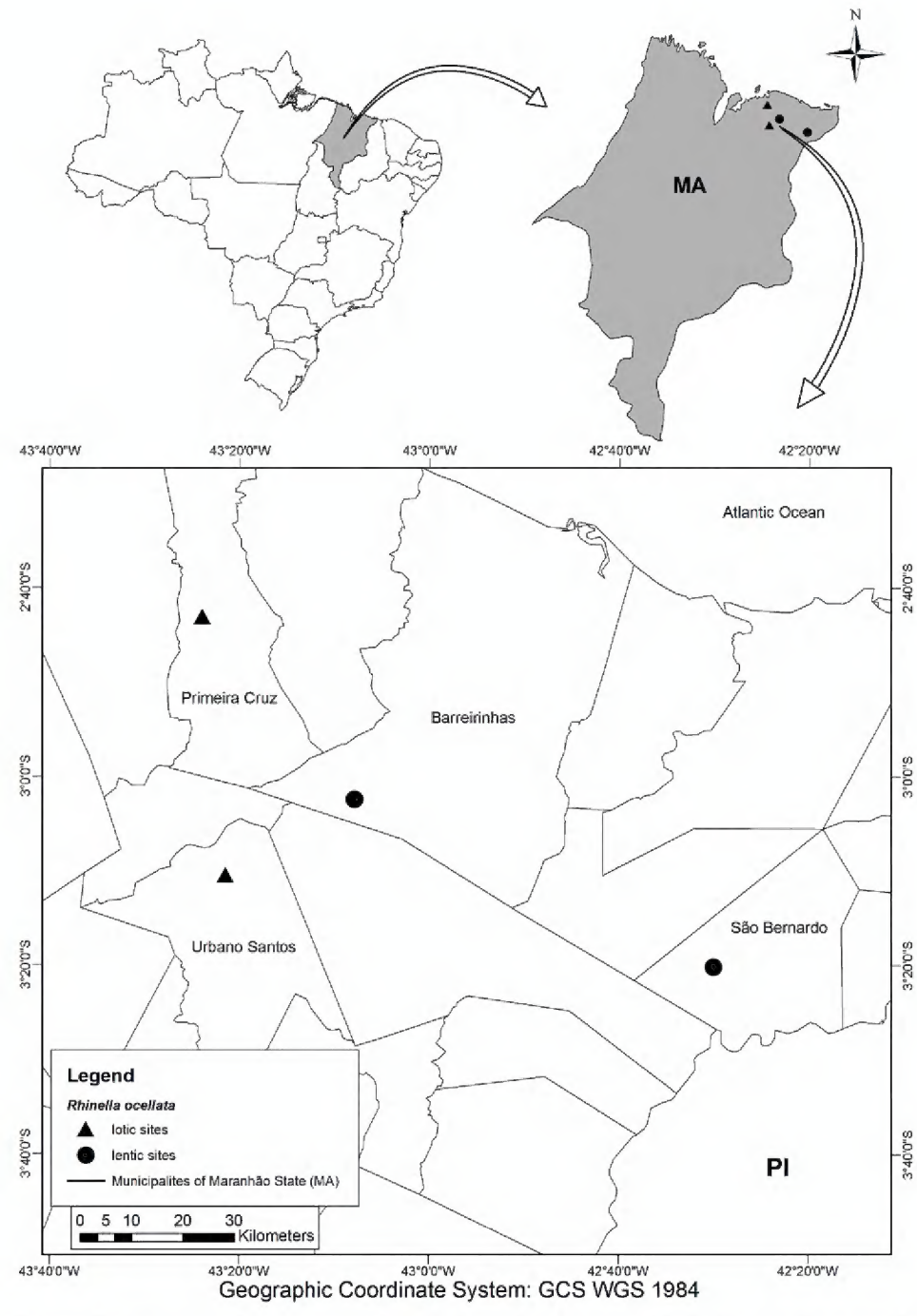

FIGURE 1. Map of the geographical distribution of *Rhinella ocellata* in the northeast of the state of Maranhão, northeastern Brazil.

captured between 20:30h and 21:00h, also vocalizing on the banks of a slow lotic anthropic environment "buritizal", but located in coastal ecosystem "restinga environments" (Figure 3), being the first record of *R. ocellata* for a coastal ecosystem in Brazil and 4) São Bernardo (3°20′10″ S, 42°30′01″ W; 117 m a.s.l): on July 13, 2010 an adult male was captured (36.3 mm SVL) between 5:30h and 6:00h on the roadside in the Cerrado biome "Cerradão", near a temporary pond. Voucher specimens are deposited in the Coleção de Herpetologia da Universidade Federal do Maranhão (CHUFMA 1102, 1136, 1047, 1101, 1100) and in the Coleção de Anfíbios da Universidade Estadual do Piauí, Parnaíba, state of Piauí (UESPI 151). This new record extends the distribution of *Rhinella ocellata* for coastal ecosystem in the state of Maranhão and for "restinga environments" by approximately 895 km north from the closest record located in Parque Estadual do Jalapão (10°32′59″ S, 46°45′38″ W), state of Tocantins (Caldwell and Shepard 2007).

Figure 2. Adult male of *Rhinella ocellata* (43.70 mm SVL; CHUFMA 1047) recorded in the municipality of Primeira Cruz, state of Maranhão, northeastern Brazil. Photo: Rodrigo Matavelli (30/03/2010).

Figure 3. Slow lotic anthropic environment "buritizal" located in a coastal ecosystem "restinga environment" in the municipality of Primeira Cruz, state of Maranhão, northeastern Brazil. Photo: Rodrigo Matavelli (20/01/2010).

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